



Fire Services Examinations Board

REPORT TO THE SECRETARY OF STATE FOR THE HOME DEPARTMENT AND
THE SCOTTISH MINISTERS ON THE QUALIFYING EXAMINATION FOR PROMOTION
TO THE RANK OF LEADING FIREFIGHTER PART II – PRACTICAL TEST 2001

1. This was the fifteenth occasion on which the practical test was conducted by the Board in accordance with the rules and syllabuses published in May 2000.

It consisted of three sections:

SECTION A	The conduct and supervision of one standard drill.
SECTION B	Fireground procedure: taking charge of the situation and controlling the exercise.
SECTION C	An instructional talk on the design, use, disadvantages and limitations of one item of fire service equipment.

2. Mr H E Wright was the Lead Assessor and Mr Ian Kerr (Shropshire) the Assessor for the practical tests.
3. The tests were held at local examination centres during the months of March and April.
4. The organisation of the tests was undertaken by 21 local examination boards.
5. 723 candidates initially entered for the examination as at the Board's closing date for entries (15 January). However, the final number of candidates entering the examination was 662 after late entries and withdrawals had both been accepted. 48 (7.3%) absented themselves from the examination. Thus, the number of candidates who attended the examination was 614. This included the RAF candidate but the following statistics do not include this candidate.

RESULTS

6. Of the 613 candidates who attempted the test 392 (63.9%) were awarded a pass and 221 (36.1%) failed. The 392 successful candidates are now qualified for promotion to the rank of Leading Firefighter.
7. 20 female firefighters attempted the test, of whom 14 (70.0%) were successful.
8. 48 candidates were absent from the examination and with the changes affecting the Restriction of Entry Scheme, under the revised examinations, only candidates whose appeals related to the final year of their three year period were heard. In this respect 5 candidates appealed to the Board. Under the delegated authority given to the Chairman all appeals were individually considered and the 5 were upheld. These candidates will have a further year to complete their examination.
9. A further 52 candidates have failed to pass their Part II examination within the three year period which means they must now re-sit their Part I examination.

GENERAL COMMENTS

10. The practical test for the qualifying examination to the rank of Leading Firefighter held during 2001 was the fifteenth held under the auspices of the Fire Services Examinations Board.
11. Of the 661 candidates who entered the test, 48 (7.3%) absented themselves, leaving 613 actually taking the test. 392 (63.9%) were awarded a pass and are now qualified for promotion to the rank of Leading Firefighter.
12. When compared to the figures relating to last year's test, the figures for 2001 indicate a severe decrease of 386 (-36.9%) in the number of candidates entering the examination, an increase in percentage terms of the number absenting themselves, and a resulting severe decrease of 373 (-37.8%) in the number of candidates taking the test. The number of candidates passing the test reduced by 219, although the pass rate increased by nearly 2.0%.
13. The Assessor for the practical test and the Lead Assessor and the Secretary of the Board visited a number of examination centres to assess the facilities provided and observe the tests in progress. Where improvements associated with the organisation of the local board arrangements were considered necessary, advice was given. Examiners were observed and questioned regarding assessment and were considered to be competent and fair.
14. Brigades continue to provide pre-examination courses for candidates which candidates attend on a voluntary basis. Not all candidates avail themselves of this instruction and advice, and some fail to attend the complete course. As the majority who fail the test do so in only one of the three sections, it suggests that with the guidance made available and a little more application by candidates, many of those who fail could achieve a pass.

15. The test consists of three parts, Section A which is the supervision of a standard drill strictly in accordance with the Fire Service Training Manual. The pass result of (86.3%) in this test is a slight decrease to that achieved last year (87.0%), and the general quality of candidates observed during this test continued to be good. General weakness observed continue to be the failure of candidates to take command of the crew and in the failure by many to use the de-brief as a training aid.
16. Section B of the test examines the ability of the candidates to deal with an operational incident whilst in command of one appliance and its crew. The pass rate of 78.8% is an improvement to that achieved last year (73.2%). It is difficult to identify a general weakness by failed candidates but a lack of command and control of the crew was recognised.
17. In Section C of the test the candidates are required to demonstrate their knowledge of an item of fire service equipment and an ability to instruct others. The item of equipment, which must be available for use in a candidate's brigade, is chosen by examiners from a list of three items selected by the local board. The pass rate of 84.3% is a further improvement on that recorded last year (82.8%).

ASSESSORS' REPORT

18. Detailed comments of the national assessor in connection with the practical test will be prepared and issued to brigades.

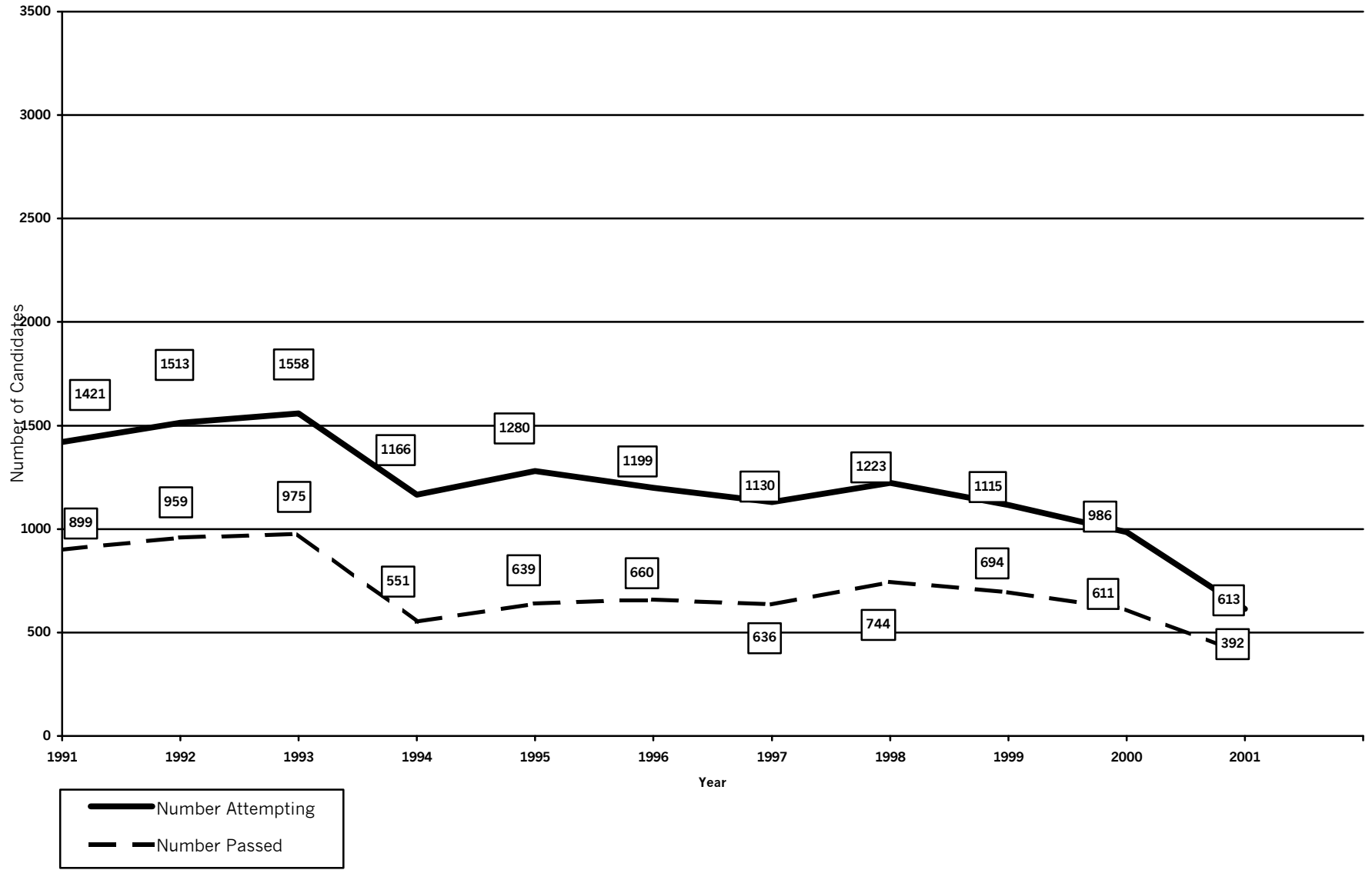
SUMMARY OF RESULTS

19. The following tables show the results of the examination as a whole in both graphical and tabular format. Graphs showing the numbers attempting and passing the examination and percentage passing is attached at Appendix A. A summary of the results as a whole and by individual sections of the examination is attached at Appendix B and a full statistical report for the examination, including an analysis by brigade is attached at Appendix C.

G Meldrum
Chairman

D J Stanley
Secretary

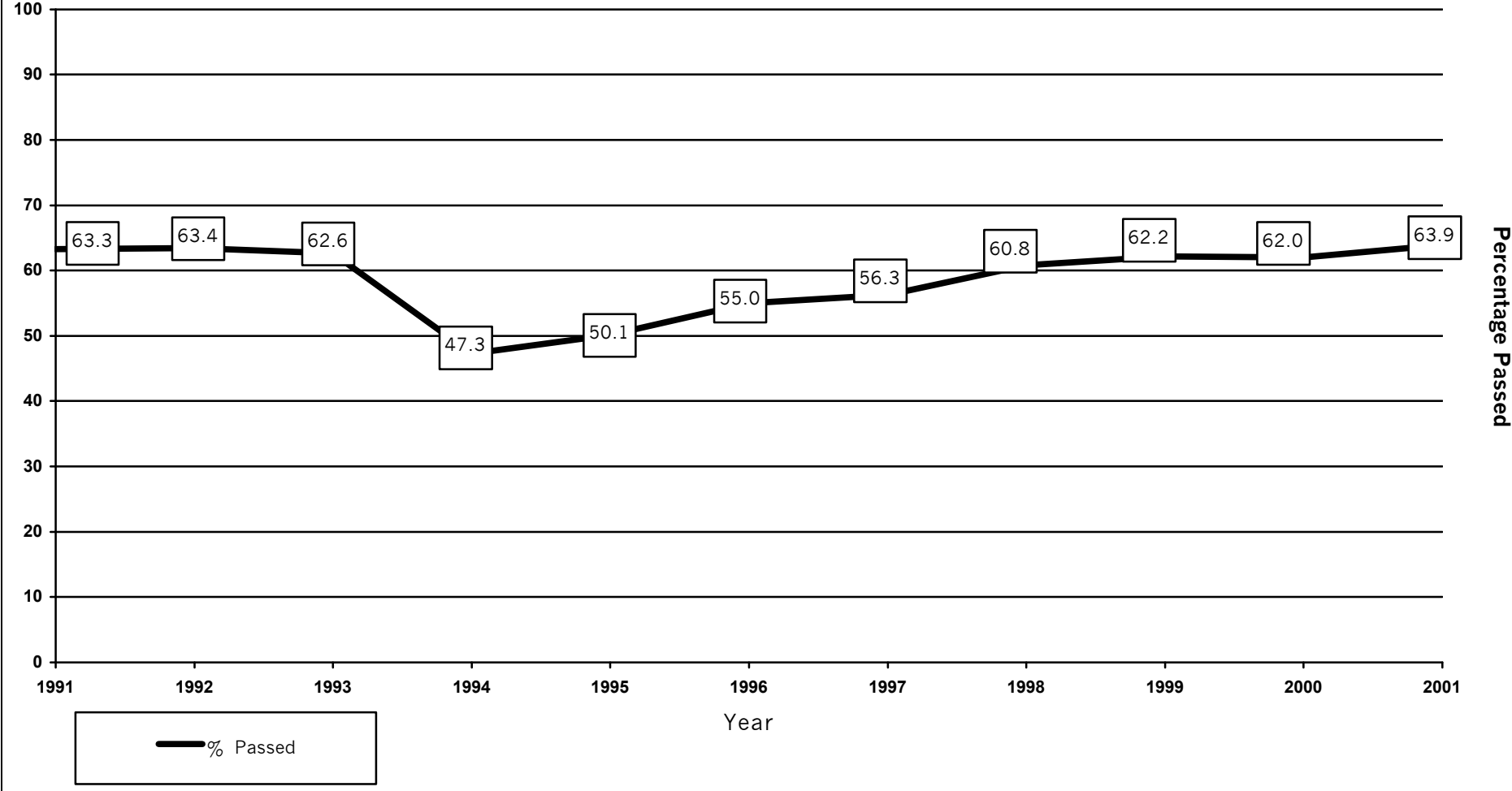
Leading Firefighters' Practical Examination 1991 - 2001
TABLE I



APPENDIX A

Leading Firefighters' Practical Examination 1999 - 2001

TABLE II



APPENDIX B

RESULTS IN TEST AS A WHOLE

Table I shows the results in the test as a whole.

TABLE I

	2001		2000		1999		1998		1997		1996		1995		1994		1993		1992		1991	
	No	%	No	%	No	%	No	%	No	%	No	%	No	%	No	%	No	%	No	%	No	%
Passed	392	63.9	611	62.0	694	62.2	744	60.8	636	56.3	660	55.0	641	50.1	551	47.3	975	62.6	959	63.4	899	63.3
Failed	221	36.1	375	38.0	421	37.8	479	39.2	494	43.7	539	45.0	639	49.9	615	52.7	583	37.4	554	36.7	522	36.7
Totals	613		986		1115		1223		1130		1199		1280		1166		1558		1513		1421	

Performance in each Section

Table II shows the distribution of candidates by section and their performance in the 2001 test.

TABLE II

Section	Subject	Passed		Failed		Total
		No	%	No	%	No
Section A	Supervise one standard drill	529	86.3	84	13.7	613
Section B	Fireground procedure: taking charge of the situation and controlling the exercise	483	78.8	130	21.2	613
Section C	An instructional talk on the design, use, disadvantages and limitations of one item of fire service equipment	517	84.3	96	15.7	613



Fire Services Examinations Board

Qualifying Examination for Promotion to the Rank of Leading Firefighter 2001 Practical Test

FULL STATISTICAL REPORT

ANALYSIS OF ENTRIES BY AGE GROUP

The following table shows the distribution of candidates by age and their performance in the above examination.

Table I

Age Group	Passed		Failed		Total Sat	Total Entered	% of Grand Total
	No	%	No	%	No	No	
Up To 20 Years	1	100.00	0	0.00	1	1	0.15
20 To 24	39	58.21	28	41.79	67	69	10.44
25 To 29	176	70.97	72	29.03	248	266	40.24
30 To 34	128	60.38	84	39.62	212	232	35.10
35 To 39	40	57.14	30	42.86	70	75	11.35
40 To 44	6	50.00	6	50.00	12	15	2.27
45 To 49	2	66.67	1	33.33	3	3	0.45
50 +	0		0		0	0	0.00
TOTALS:	392	63.95	221	36.05	613	661	100.00

ANALYSIS OF ENTRIES BY RANK

The following table shows the distribution of candidates by rank and their performance in the above examination.

Table II

Rank	Passed		Failed		Total Sat	Total Entered	% of Grand Total
	No	%	No	%	No	No	
Firefighter	392	63.95	221	36.05	613	661	100.00
TOTALS:	392	63.95	221	36.05	613	661	100.00

ANALYSIS OF ENTRIES BY GENDER

The following table shows the distribution of candidates by gender and their performance in the above examination.

Table III

Gender	Passed		Failed		Total Sat	Total Entered	% of Grand Total
	No	%	No	%	No	No	
Female	14	70.00	6	30.00	20	21	3.18
Male	378	63.74	215	36.26	593	640	96.82
TOTALS:	392	63.95	221	36.05	613	661	100.00

ANALYSIS OF ENTRIES BY LENGTH OF SERVICE

The following table shows the distribution of candidates by length of service and their performance in the above examination.

Table IV

Length of Service Years	Passed		Failed		Total Sat	Total Entered	% of Grand Total
	No	%	No	%	No	No	
0	11	73.33	4	26.67	15	15	2.27
1	104	74.82	35	25.18	139	143	21.63
2	116	66.29	59	33.71	175	184	27.84
3	67	55.37	54	44.63	121	133	20.12
4	33	67.35	16	32.65	49	59	8.93
5	14	41.18	20	58.82	34	39	5.90
6	12	57.14	9	42.86	21	22	3.33
7	4	50.00	4	50.00	8	8	1.21
8	3	42.86	4	57.14	7	8	1.21
9	5	71.43	2	28.57	7	7	1.06
10	4	80.00	1	20.00	5	5	0.76
11	3	50.00	3	50.00	6	7	1.06
12	2	40.00	3	60.00	5	7	1.06
13	3	75.00	1	25.00	4	4	0.61
14	1	50.00	1	50.00	2	2	0.30
15	3	75.00	1	25.00	4	4	0.61
16	0		0		0	0	0.00
17	3	50.00	3	50.00	6	7	1.06
18	0	0.00	1	100.00	1	1	0.15
19	1	100.00	0	0.00	1	1	0.15
20	0		0		0	1	0.15
21	2	100.00	0	0.00	2	2	0.30
22	0		0		0	1	0.15
23	1	100.00	0	0.00	1	1	0.15
TOTALS:	392	63.95	221	36.05	613	661	100.00

ANALYSIS OF ENTRIES BY ETHNIC ORIGIN

The following table shows the distribution of candidates by ethnic origin and their performance in the above examination.

Table V

Ethnic Origin	Passed		Failed		Total Sat	Total Entered	% of Grand Total
	No	%	No	%	No	No	
Black-African	1	100.00	0	0.00	1	1	0.15
Black-Caribbean	1	100.00	0	0.00	1	1	0.15
Black-Other	3	75.00	1	25.00	4	4	0.61
Declined To Say	4	57.14	3	42.86	7	8	1.21
Indian	0		0		0	1	0.15
Other	3	60.00	2	40.00	5	7	1.06
White	380	63.87	215	36.13	595	639	96.67
TOTALS:	392	63.95	221	36.05	613	661	100.00

ANALYSIS OF ENTRIES BY BRIGADE

The following table shows the cumulative results achieved in each brigade (grouped in local examination boards).

Table VI

Board	Brigade	Passed		Failed		Absentees	Total Sat	Total Entered	% of Grand Total
		No	%	No	%	No	No	No	
A	Cleveland	2	100.00	0	0.00	0	2	2	0.30
A	Durham & Darlington	4	57.14	3	42.86	0	7	7	1.06
A	Northumberland	3	75.00	1	25.00	0	4	4	0.61
A	Tyne & Wear	4	80.00	1	20.00	0	5	5	0.76
	Sub-Totals:	13	72.22	5	27.78	0	18	18	2.72
B	Humberside	10	71.43	4	28.57	1	14	15	2.27
B	North Yorkshire	3	25.00	9	75.00	2	12	14	2.12
B	South Yorkshire	12	60.00	8	40.00	1	20	21	3.18
B	West Yorkshire	8	66.67	4	33.33	5	12	17	2.57
	Sub-Totals:	33	56.90	25	43.10	9	58	67	10.14
C	Cumbria	4	66.67	2	33.33	1	6	7	1.06
C	Greater Manchester	6	60.00	4	40.00	3	10	13	1.97
C	Lancashire	7	43.75	9	56.25	2	16	18	2.72
	Sub-Totals:	17	53.13	15	46.88	6	32	38	5.75
D	Cheshire	7	70.00	3	30.00	0	10	10	1.51
D	Isle of Man	2	100.00	0	0.00	0	2	2	0.30
D	Merseyside	5	45.45	6	54.55	0	11	11	1.66
	Sub-Totals:	14	60.87	9	39.13	0	23	23	3.48
E	Shropshire	2	66.67	1	33.33	0	3	3	0.45
E	Staffordshire	2	40.00	3	60.00	0	5	5	0.76
E	Warwickshire	3	42.86	4	57.14	1	7	8	1.21
E	West Midlands	18	54.55	15	45.45	8	33	41	6.20
E	Hereford and Worcs	4	66.67	2	33.33	0	6	6	0.91
	Sub-Totals:	29	53.70	25	46.30	9	54	63	9.53
F	Derbyshire	5	62.50	3	37.50	1	8	9	1.36
F	Leicestershire	8	88.89	1	11.11	0	9	9	1.36
F	Nottinghamshire	3	50.00	3	50.00	1	6	7	1.06
	Sub-Totals:	16	69.57	7	30.43	2	23	25	3.78
G	Cambridgeshire	4	57.14	3	42.86	0	7	7	1.06
G	Lincolnshire	3	60.00	2	40.00	0	5	5	0.76
G	Norfolk	8	72.73	3	27.27	0	11	11	1.66
	Sub-Totals:	15	65.22	8	34.78	0	23	23	3.48
H	Bedfordshire & Luton	1	20.00	4	80.00	0	5	5	0.76
H	Northamptonshire	5	62.50	3	37.50	0	8	8	1.21
H	Oxfordshire	5	62.50	3	37.50	0	8	8	1.21
	Sub-Totals:	11	52.38	10	47.62	0	21	21	3.18
I	Essex	14	82.35	3	17.65	1	17	18	2.72
I	Hertfordshire	5	62.50	3	37.50	2	8	10	1.51
I	Suffolk	5	83.33	1	16.67	0	6	6	0.91
	Sub-Totals:	24	77.42	7	22.58	3	31	34	5.14
J	London	32	59.26	22	40.74	1	54	55	8.32
	Sub-Totals:	32	59.26	22	40.74	1	54	55	8.32
K	East Sussex	8	53.33	7	46.67	0	15	15	2.27
K	Kent	6	54.55	5	45.45	1	11	12	1.82
K	Surrey	3	42.86	4	57.14	2	7	9	1.36

Board	Brigade	Passed		Failed		Absentees	Total Sat	Total Entered	% of Grand Total
		No	%	No	%	No	No	No	
K	West Sussex	7	77.78	2	22.22	0	9	9	1.36
Sub-Totals:		24	57.14	18	42.86	3	42	45	6.81
L	Berkshire	8	88.89	1	11.11	0	9	9	1.36
L	Buckinghamshire	7	100.00	0	0.00	1	7	8	1.21
L	Hampshire	14	56.00	11	44.00	0	25	25	3.78
L	Isle of Wight	0		0		0	0		0.00
Sub-Totals:		29	70.73	12	29.27	1	41	42	6.35
M	Cornwall	0	0.00	1	100.00	0	1	1	0.15
M	Devon	7	58.33	5	41.67	0	12	12	1.82
Sub-Totals:		7	53.85	6	46.15	0	13	13	1.97
N	Dorset	6	75.00	2	25.00	2	8	10	1.51
N	Somerset	6	100.00	0	0.00	0	6	6	0.91
N	Wiltshire	5	71.43	2	28.57	0	7	7	1.06
Sub-Totals:		17	80.95	4	19.05	2	21	23	3.48
O	Avon	7	100.00	0	0.00	0	7	7	1.06
O	Gloucestershire	4	57.14	3	42.86	0	7	7	1.06
Sub-Totals:		11	78.57	3	21.43	0	14	14	2.12
P	Mid & West Wales	4	40.00	6	60.00	2	10	12	1.82
P	North Wales	8	80.00	2	20.00	0	10	10	1.51
P	South Wales	13	52.00	12	48.00	4	25	29	4.39
Sub-Totals:		25	55.56	20	44.44	6	45	51	7.72
Q	Strathclyde	25	78.13	7	21.88	1	32	33	4.99
Sub-Totals:		25	78.13	7	21.88	1	32	33	4.99
R	Fife	12	100.00	0	0.00	1	12	13	1.97
R	Grampian	3	100.00	0	0.00	0	3	3	0.45
R	Highlands and Islands	5	100.00	0	0.00	0	5	5	0.76
R	Tayside	9	90.00	1	10.00	0	10	10	1.51
Sub-Totals:		29	96.67	1	3.33	1	30	31	4.69
S	Central Scotland	4	66.67	2	33.33	1	6	7	1.06
S	Dumfries & Galloway	3	60.00	2	40.00	0	5	5	0.76
S	Lothian and Borders	12	57.14	9	42.86	1	21	22	3.33
Sub-Totals:		19	59.38	13	40.63	2	32	34	5.14
T	Northern Ireland	1	25.00	3	75.00	2	4	6	0.91
Sub-Totals:		1	25.00	3	75.00	2	4	6	0.91
U	Guernsey	1	50.00	1	50.00	0	2	2	0.30
U	Jersey	0		0		0	0		0.00
Sub-Totals:		1	50.00	1	50.00	0	2	2	0.30
TOTALS:		392	63.95	221	36.05	48	613	661	100.00

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